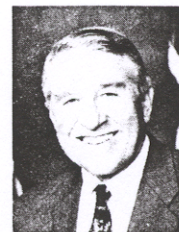




NEWS FROM

# Jack Scott

21st SENATE DISTRICT



For Immediate Release  
June 6, 2001

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## SENATE PASSES HANDGUN LICENSING BILL

### *Senator Scott's SB 52 moves to the Assembly*

SACRAMENTO -- Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena) announced today that SB 52, his landmark handgun licensing bill, was approved by the Senate. SB 52 would require handgun purchasers to submit a thumbprint to law enforcement, pass a written test about firearms laws and safety procedures, and demonstrate safe handling skills before purchasing a handgun after January 1, 2003.

"I am pleased that safety training for handgun owners is moving forward in the legislature," said Senator Scott. "Handgun buyers should know how to use and safely store guns before bringing them into their homes."

SB 52 also helps to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, by requiring law enforcement to verify the identity of gun purchasers, and take a thumbprint. Current law allows criminals to lie about their identity and backgrounds since they only need to show identification to a gun dealer. A recent federal study documented how easy it is to buy firearms with fraudulent identification

"Criminals will think twice about trying to buy handguns if they know they have to deal with local police face-to-face," said Chief Larry Todd, former President of the California Police Chiefs Association, which supports SB 52.

SB 52 would apply to purchases of handguns after January 1, 2003. Current gun owners would not have to obtain a license unless they wish to buy additional handguns. The handgun safety license would be valid for five years.

"We require drivers to demonstrate their knowledge of traffic laws before they get behind the wheel of a car," said former Los Angeles Police Commissioner Ann Reiss Lane of Women Against Gun Violence, which also supports the bill. "Why should it be any different for those who purchase deadly handguns?"

"There is strong public support for handgun licensing -- 69 percent of Californians support it. We need to do something about the terrible toll of death and injury from gun violence. The time is right to enact handgun licensing," concluded Scott.

SB 52 now goes to the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

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